DOINGS IN IRELAND.

The Queen's University at Belfast (a view of which has recently appeared in The Builder), is one of the three colleges lately erected in Ireland, and comprehends the following arrangements. On the ground-floor, central on west elevation, is an entrance-tower, 17 feet by 17 feet (with porter's room adjoining, 16 feet by 12 feet), which leads to an entrance-hall, 54 feet by 26 feet, with which a grand staircase, and lobby to examination-hall, 34 feet by 12 feet, communicate: to the left of the hall, is a hat and clothes room, 48 feet by 12 feet, with a door leading to cloisters, off which the lecture-rooms, four in number, 37 feet long by 27 feet wide, with professors' retiring-rooms, 25 feet by 10 feet, are situate. The cloisters terminate at the northern wing, which contains the following apartments:—Philosophical apparatus-room, 30 feet by 20 feet; laboratory, 33 feet by 18 feet, and a students' entrance-hall, 31 feet by 17 feet, with staircase leading to upper lecture-rooms. At one extremity of this wing is a yard, 38 feet by 35 feet; a coal store, 28 feet by 12 feet; urinals, water-closets, &c. To the right of the entrance-hall, is the examination-hall, 80 feet by 38 feet, and 41 feet high, lighted by six windows, the lower ones having three openings, with arched heads, and label mouldings: and those above, which are also divided into the same number of compartments, are of a more decorative character. At the termination of the cloisters, and situate in the south wing, are the residences of the president and vice-president, containing entrance-porches, hall, dining and drawing-rooms, libraries, closets, &c., with sleeping apartments over, and kitchen offices in the basement story. The second floor contains a committee-room in entrance-tower, museum and library, situate in centre building over lecture-rooms, registrar's room, 16 feet by 12 feet, apparatus, and "chemical" apparatus rooms, lecture-rooms, &c. The height, to wall plate of centre building, is 41 feet, to ridge of roof, 53 feet; height of lower lecture-rooms, 17 feet; upper ditto, 21 feet. The cloisters extend 250 feet, and are 10 feet wide. Mr. Charles Lanyon, of Belfast, is the architect. The cost of erecting the building was 26,000*l*. Mr. Cranston Gregg, contractor.

The foundation stone of St. John's Church, Limerick, was laid on the 15th ult. The building, which is in the Norman style of architecture, will consist of a nave, about 70 feet in length, surmounted by clerestory windows, and having two side aisles. The chancel projects, and the central roof will be supported on arches and pillars of cut stone: there will also be a tower and spire about 90 feet in height. The interior of the roofs will be of open woodwork, stained and varnished, resting on cut stone corbels. The building has been designed by, and is erecting under the superintendence of, Mr. J. Welland, architect.

The Midland Great Western Railway Company have just completed an extensive store-house at the North Wall, Dublin: it is 140 feet long by 22 feet wide. The plans were furnished by Mr. Tarrant, engineer. Cost of construction about 800*l*. Messrs. Cockburn and Son, builders.

The Chetwynd Metal Viaduct, on the Cork and Bandon Railway, is progressing rapidly, and will be within 10 feet of the height of the Britannia Tubular Bridge of the Menai Straits.

The Poor Law Commissioners have decided upon erecting additions to the workhouse of the Granard Union, and the board of guardians are prepared to receive tenders for the execution of the works according to the drawings prepared by Mr. Wilkinson, architect.

A spacious building in Whitefriar-street, Dublin, has been converted into a training-school for the children of the poor: the building is divided into several distinct compartments. The lower section comprises a suite of spacious and well-ventilated school-rooms, fitted with all necessary accommodation, and finished in a tasteful manner. These rooms are fitted up with gas burners (for night schools), supplying abundant light, and which can be kept at a proper temperature by patent stoves. The upper story is occupied entirely by one large room, wherein the various industrial pursuits of the pupils will be carried on. The entire of this establishment will be devoted exclusively to the education and industrial training of the female children.

The board of guardians of the New Ross Union purpose erecting sundry buildings in connection with the workhouse; and have advertised for tenders for the execution of the works according to the drawings of the Poor Law Commissioners' architect.

The works on the Londonderry and Coleraine Railway are to be resumed immediately, and the opening of the line to Newtownlimavady may be looked forward to.

It is contemplated to construct a tower and belfry at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Letterkenny, which has been lately erected; and also to purchase an organ for same: three galleries have recently been added, and a costly marble altar also. A sum of 3,000*l*. has been expended on the internal decorations, and subscriptions are now being raised for the completion of the works.

Dublin Mechanics' Institute.—The report of this body for the past year states that the number of members for the past year is 2,862, being an increase of 162 upon the previous year; that the issues of books for the past year amounted to 93,600 sets. The entire number of volumes now possessed by the institution amounts to 5,746. The contracts for improvements, alterations, gas fittings, &c., in the lecture-hall, are stated to be satisfactory, and the work is progressing under the direction of Messrs. Louch, architects.

NEXT TO FORM, COLOUR.

Sir,—Although my husband lives at Clapham, and exacts of me the closest attention to his cherished garden and conservatory, rarely allowing me to see the marvels of London, yet I stole away yesterday, when he was fairly off to his country-house, and paid a visit to the great glass building.

On entering the wide expanse, my eyes wandered over its details, and I could not help wishing that it was transferred to our common, and planted on our delightful paddock, which it would wholly cover in. Dear Mr. Bottomry's hobby at home (that is, our conservatory) is 40 feet long by 26 feet wide; it is attached to the south-east side of our house, which it covers in to the eaves; but I am quite out of conceit with it now: yet, Sir, I think that if the Painting Committee were to take a look at the style of its finish, it might aid them in choosing their colour, the last and the most effective of their operations.

My lady friends always apply to me for advice in the choice of their colours in bonnets, dresses, window-curtains, carpets, and even in the tint of their house decorations; and, to do Mr. Bottomry justice, he did admit my claims to discrimination, even in that of his pet conservatory. I had it done in a *verdatre white*, and all agree in lauding the agreeable repose which this tint confers, together with its lightness and accordance with all the floral and arborific contents.

Ladies are admitted to be the best judges of effect in laying on paint; therefore, observing a party, of whom one was known to me, discoursing on the experiments now in progress in the national conservatory, we at once held a conference on the subject—a true committee of taste on the palace itself—on which there was no dissent: all condemned the tawdry, gaudy, and meretricious mixture of *red, yellow, blue*, and a little white, now rapidly extending over the interior of the grand arch, and especially the yellow on the frames and styles of the top light, which gave a sickly hue to day: the sun, though bright, looked jaundiced through, and the whole appeared like wares of a Dutch toy-shop or a China joss-house.

I will admit that the blue with white lines looked light, clear, and elegant, but the top lights of (nearly sage) green are more refreshing and less obtrusive than any other colour: the blue and white on the traverse beams or girders are certainly the lightest, as the outer styles of white deprive these castings of much of their ponderous appearance; but the red yellow, and blue mixture, is only fit for the favours of a St. Alban's candidate or a Moorish Alhambra. If the building be to stand, and to be a conservatory, or winter-garden, then these *flagrant primitives* should be abandoned, and the light green adopted as the most consistent, and, at the same time, the neatest.

Now, Sir, as to the trees, which the skilful contractor has capped over, allow me to ask of what use it is to let them stand, seeing that by June next the leaves, if they come out at all, will have completely withered. These veterans are too old to endure so violent a change of habit: they must perish from lack of moisture—no dew nor shower for the bud, the bark, or the root! Possibly they are left to record Mr. Paxton's triumph, possibly that of the popular voice, and they stand as trees of liberty: they are, however, monstrously in the way, and can be of no value to either Exhibition or Winter Garden, since they never will (take my word for it) produce other than the crop they now bear—a crop of shavings!

The nurserymen and florists whom dear Bottomry largely patronises, all consult me on the laying out of pleasure-gardens for a scope of five miles round Clapham, and although not a judge of architecture nor of the *best mode of disguising a skeleton*, I claim my pre-eminence in *light* and *shadows*, and venture to communicate these remarks to The Builder, as the best expositor for

Emma Bottomry.

P.S.—The learned disquisitions (lectures) on *primitive colours*, their accord for only "*one-third diameter of the bow!*" prismatic demonstrations and pragmatic deductions! have no concern with *taste*. Take a natural view of these things, but, above all, consult a lady. We were six in council at the Exhibition, and we all agreed in *this*.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

First official Prussian Report on their Exhibitors at London.—The head Exhibition Commission of Berlin have just published a report, of which we make the following extract. The number of candidates for the Exhibition amounts to 1872, of which 455 belong to the easterly, and 439 to the west part of Prussia. On ores and metals we find the following notices:—*Zinc.* Germany is still the country where this metal is most extensively produced. In Silesia there have been produced, in the year 1849, 452,546 cwt. of plates and bars of zinc, and 19,558 of rolled zinc. The royal mine of Königshütte will exhibit red and yellow brass ore (*galmey*) of different sorts. From Stolberg, also, in Westphalia, samples will be sent to London.—*Iron.* The Rhenish iron-works are the most important, whose productions amounted to 846,000 cwt. of cast iron, 797,000 cwt. of bar and rolled iron, and 117,000 cwt. of cast steel. The mining direction of Bonn will send in a series of iron ore, cast iron, and steel, and some collateral products. The extensive rail and puddling works at Hende and Sterkrade will exhibit many extensive samples. Silesia, which produces 894,000 cwt. of cast iron and 634,000 cwt. of rolled and slab iron, will send from Gleiwitz specimens of these famous works.—*Copper.* From Saxony, the Mansfeld mines will exhibit a series of the native copper schist, up to the worked copper.—*Lead* will be sent from the Rhenish works of Commern: white lead and lead ochre will be exhibited from the Rhine.—*Cobalt.* Washed cobalt ore and oxide of cobalt are announced from Schwarzenfels, &c.—Articles of bronze will chiefly be sent from Bavaria. Gold and silver wire will be sent from Nuremberg.

Ornamentation of the Cathedral of Cologne.—As this splendid building and its completion are still considered as one of the national boasts of Germany, the ladies of Cologne (*Frauen und Jungfrauen*) have woven some tapestry to adorn the cathedral with. The designs have been made by the conservator, M. Ramboux, the details of ornamentation by the painter, M. Welter. The archbishop, on receiving them from a deputation of the ladies, introduced in his speech the

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